

The Dogs / Ha Klaveem

Week of January 30th-February 3rd, 2012



Tu B'Shvat, or "Jewish Earth Day" marks the "New Year of the Trees", in the Hebrew Calendar. It is celebrated by planting trees, eating fresh and dried fruits and nuts. This time of the year is a great opportunity to make children wonder about the world around them and the benefits that nature has to share with our lives. Studying trees leads us to plant and water seeds, observe phenomena like photosynthesis and enhance learning throughout touching, feeling, tasting, smelling and seeing.

Math:

Additionally to our daily routine on Thursday, we did everything the 100 way! We counted, sorted, compared, measured and weighed our 100 items! We had a blast!!!

- Counted the number of boys and girls in our class.
- Counted the days of the week and the months of the year.
- Every day we added a number to our 100 days of school board until we completed it on Thursday.
- Estimation Jar: We guessed how many sea shells were in it. Thanks Max for sharing your shells with us!
- Counted coins and bills in the Tzedakah box.

Literacy:

The children listened to the story “The Little Lost Tree” from 10 Great Jewish Children’s Stories by Chaya Burnstein. Sloane read “The 100th Day of School” by Angela Shelf Medearis.

- We discussed the different functions and parts of trees and plants.
- Played interactive reading games on the computer. Sam brought in new software called “Pajama Sam 2”. The character in this interactive game is a superhero that is trying to overcome his fear of darkness. Children are practicing how to solve problems and challenges as they learn.

Science:

At the class’ request, we are talking about different weather facts. Children are becoming more aware of the changes happening during this time of the year. Last week we talked about rain and this week we discussed rainbows. Eli shared “What Makes a Rainbow?” by Betty Ann Schwartz from his personal book collection. Thanks Eli!

As an experiment Ms. Carolina brought white Pom Pom flowers and we put them in containers with different colored water. We made observations every day that helped us understand how plants and trees absorb nutrients and water.

Gross Motor:

Children are being motivated to enjoy their time in the indoor gym and on the playground. These are excellent opportunities to foster their large muscle development.

- We danced to Ms. Beth’s silly movements and Tu B’Shvat songs.
- We are encouraging team games and cooperative play at the block center and on the playground.
- Ms. Alisa is showing us how to play softball and run the bases. Also this week we learned this yoga pose: “E for easy pose”.

Fine Motor:

- We worked on decorating the pages for our books for Tu B’Shvat.
- Every Monday we had a section of our day to write neatly on our official journal.
- Jolie (Sophie’s mom) prepared purple play-doh that we are smashing and molding every day at center time.

Social/Self Help:

- Practicing pouring drinks, opening lunch, passing out cups and napkins.
- Encouraging independence and being fair.
- Learning how to solve conflict in a respectfully manner.
- Reviewed classroom rules, especially rule # 7 “Keep inside voices when we are in the classroom”.

Judaic:

- Attended Havdalah on Monday and Shabbat on Friday.
- Sang Hatikvah every morning at Shalom Time.
- Cantor Zack practiced Tu B’Shvat songs with us.
- Recited the blessings before and after every meal.

Reminders:

- Please send your child in with a labeled kosher snack every day.
- Do not forget to recycle all your empty ink cartridges and old cell phones. We will collect them for our Funding Factory fundraiser. We are also participants of the Campbell Labels fundraiser program, save them and bring them over!
- Please help us collect new pajamas for infants, children and adolescents. This is a PJ Library program. And if you have not sign up for the PJ Library program yet, it is not too late!
- Torah Tots PTO will be glad to have you as a volunteer for the upcoming events.
- Save the date:
- Dads and Donuts is Monday February 13th.
- Purim Carnival and Play Thursday March 8th.

Thanks to Sophie and David P. for bringing in delicious snacks for Shabbat.

Shabbat Shalom!

Morah Debbie & Morah Carolina